

Millikan, M.

Origin of PSB

5 March 1952

Doubtless there were other streams of origin, but the one which seems to have flown directly to the creation of the PSB in the early part of 1951 (check date - ABD) is the "Troy Project."

1950 Millikan participated in a "contract study," State and MIT, in the fall of 1951. This was of particular interest to Under Secretary Webb. Its objective was to find some means of penetrating the "Iron Curtain." The men in Cambridge spent some three months. They were social and natural scientists.

p. 3. \* They recognized the fact that PW must be greater than the mere instruments of propaganda. The Voice of America would never suffice. European observers were influenced by diplomatic moves and economic circumstances among others.

[redacted] was one of the first investigators, apparently.

According to Millikan the best way into the problem proved to be through the "defectors." Treatment of them had an enormous effect back home and at first the treatment was rather bad. Redefection developed

and one of those fellows returning inside the Iron Curtain could completely offset the Voice of America. Some of the defectors apparently received worse treatment in the Allied camps than they had in the old concentration camps. Millikan did not have time to go further into the detail of the "Troy Project." Out of its study came the recommendation of the State Department which had considerable to do with the creation of the PSB.

It seems that before this there had been a Board in the 1950's under E. Barrett, Assistant Secretary of State. With him sat Wisner, AD/OPC, Admiral Stevens from the Pentagon, and others. This Board had under it a staff called "IFIS" which was located in State. Its members included Stone, Norberg, Colonel Davis (Pentagon) ABD - Notes These notes may give Hall leads. The Board under Barrett operated on a lower level than its successor PSB. Perhaps for that reason it was superseded. Millikan thought that the PSB was established by President Directive some time in December of 1951. He did not think that it was changed by [redacted] in October 1951. But he did not know. ABD - Notes: From evidence I have found in the Maginote Papers, 8 May 1951, PSB was founded very near that date, presumably just before it.

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p. 1. \*  
 To resume Milliken's comments at the point where he spoke of the conclusions of the "Troy Project" he emphasized that the PSB to be should use all instruments of "cold war." At this time the United States had no machinery for such coordination and "impact in toto." Secretary Webb was much impressed with the report, and doubtless as he sat in NSC when Nicholson was not there, he conveyed his impression to the Security Council. Ideas as to what to do ranged all the way from having an Assistant President down to a Coordinating Committee. An Assistant President would not be very well received, of course, by such established officers as the Secretary of State. The result was a compromise of a Board (according to Milliken) consisting of the Under Secretaries of State and Defense, and the DCI from CIA. Under the Board, but a man of caliber and distinction, there was to be a Director to carry out the wishes of the Board. Max agreed with me that he must have been thought of as quite comparable to the DCI himself in relation to the National Security Council. In my mind also was the struggle of Donovan to make the Director of his central intelligence service independent of the Advisory Board.

Back to Milliken - Max made an interesting point about the PSB in terms of historical precedent. In the old days policy was handled normally in times of peace by the State Department. With the advent of war policy shifted to the Departments having to do with it (Army, Navy - in the old days). But now, he said, there is an intermediate phase in which no one agency had complete control - the "cold war" phase. It is in this that such an agency having to do with policy, as the PSB, has come into existence. ARD - I did not talk with him, as I wish now I had, about the possibility that it would have been better to establish an Office of Psychological Warfare within the Central Intelligence Agency. I wish I had his thoughts on that. Kent's was that the Board was necessary in order to "coordinate" separate and often conflicting interests.

A. B. Darling

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Interview of Max Millikan by A.B. Darling [author of Hist. Staff report entitled "The Central Intelligence Agency, and Instrument of Government. to 1950"]

ABSTRACT NOTATION REFERENCES

Max Millikan's recollections of the events and background which led to the establishment of the Psychological Strategy Board, emphasizes importance of "Troy Report"\*

*\*\* INTERNATIONAL FOREIGN INFORMATION SERVICE*

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